

Experienced Coal Miner Fatalities

(1992 - 2002)

EXERPTS FROM RECENT FATALITY REPORTS

After 3 months at ____mine, a 50-year-old electrician with 30 years of experience was fatally injured.

...43-year old truck driver with 12 years of experience was fatally injured on his **first trip on the property**.

After 2 months at ____mine, a 31 year-old roof bolting machine operator with 8 years of mining experience was fatally injured.

Seven months after transferring to the mine, a 38 year old continuous mining machine operator was fatally injured

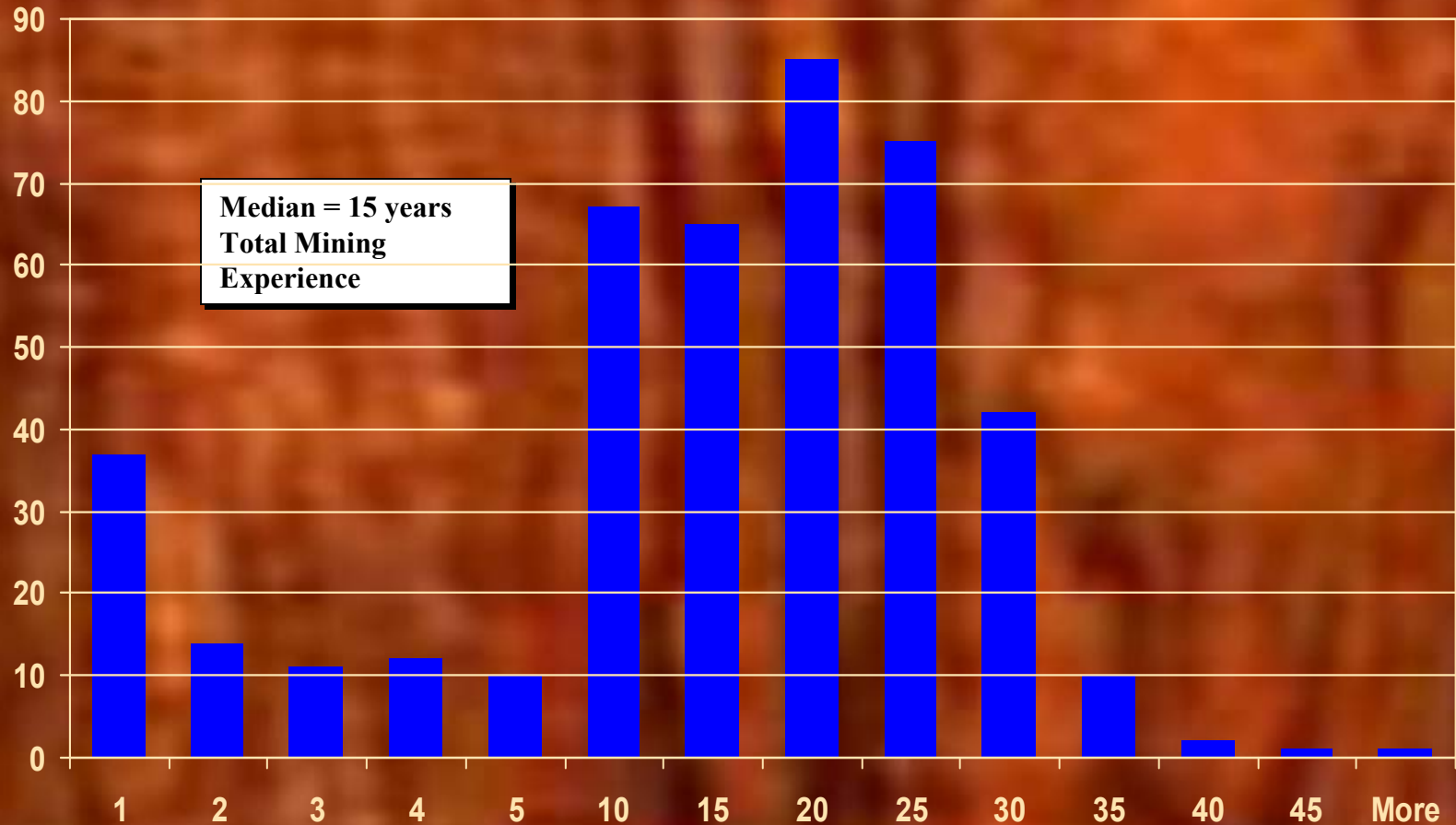
...26-year old continuous mining machine helper, who had been **working at this mine for four months**, was fatally injured

MSHA Definitions

- **EXPERIENCED MINER** - a miner who has completed MSHA-approved new miner training and has at least 12 months of mining experience [30 CFR 48.2(b) & 48.22(b)]
- **NEW MINER** - a miner who is not an experienced miner [30 CFR 48.2(c) & 48.22(c)]

Fatalities vs. Total Mining Experience (1992 - 2002)

Number
of Fatalities



Median = 15 years
Total Mining
Experience

Years Total Mining Experience

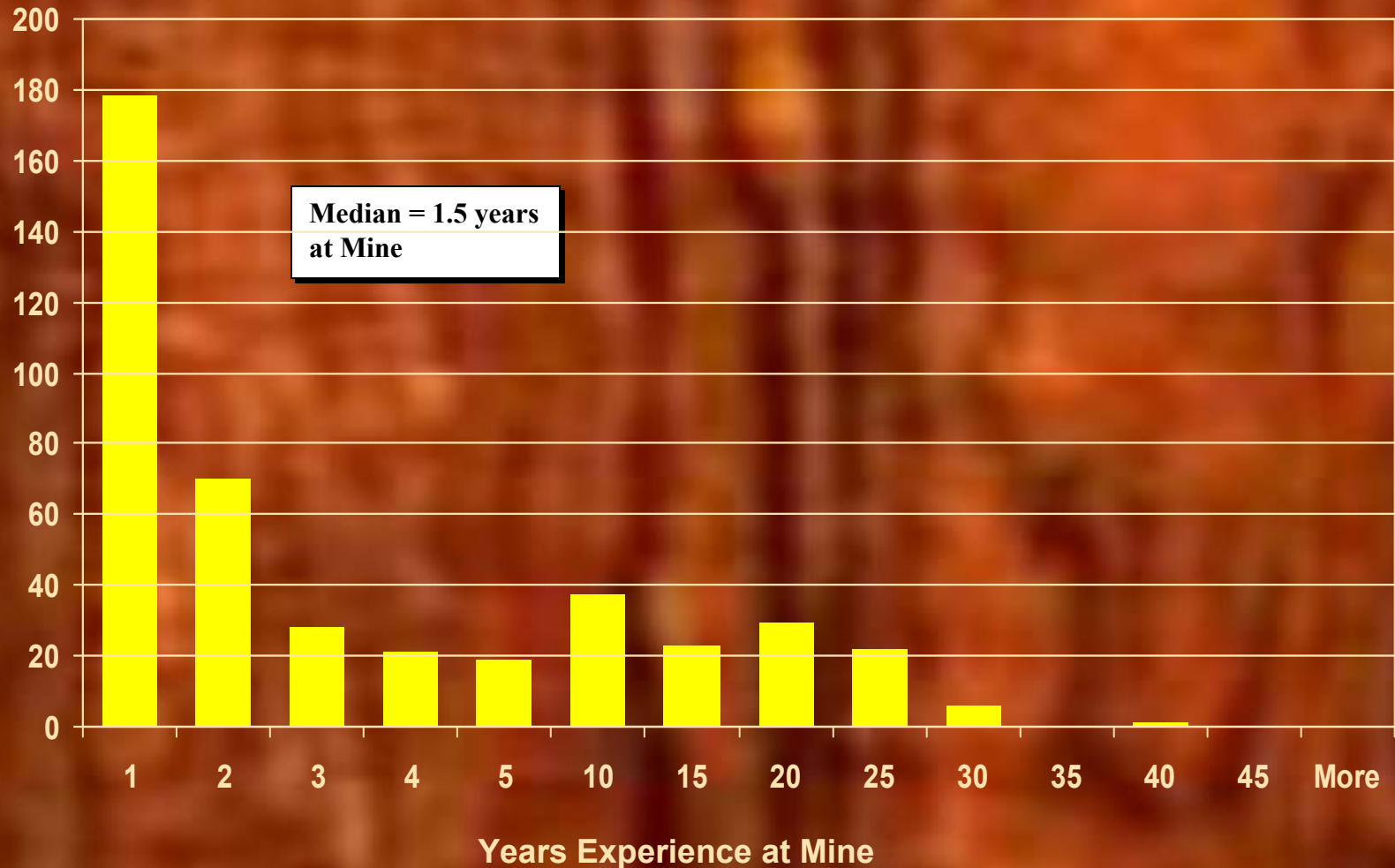
Fatalities vs. Job Experience (1992 - 2002)

Number
of Fatalities



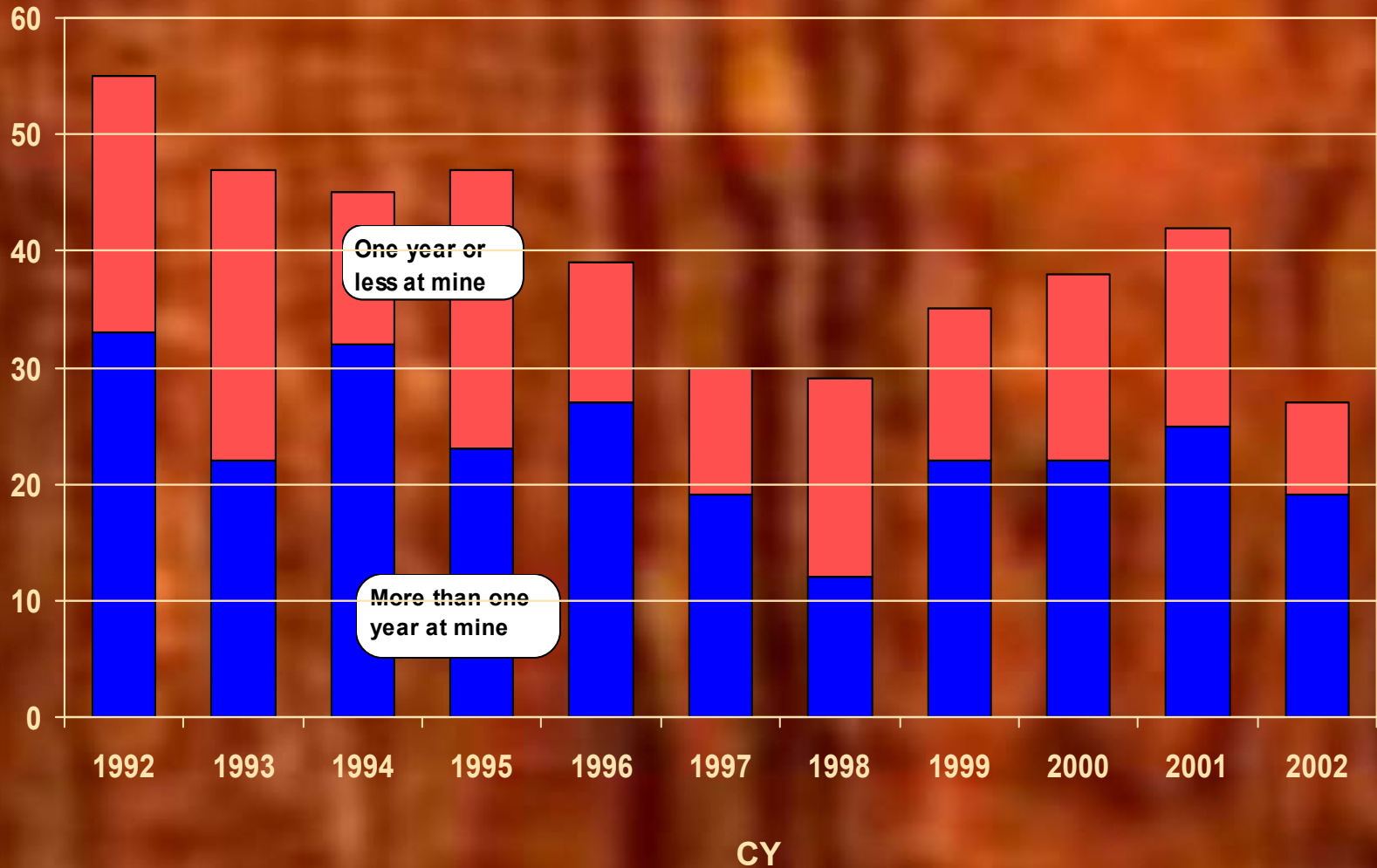
Fatalities vs. Experience at Mine (1992 - 2002)

Number
of Fatalities



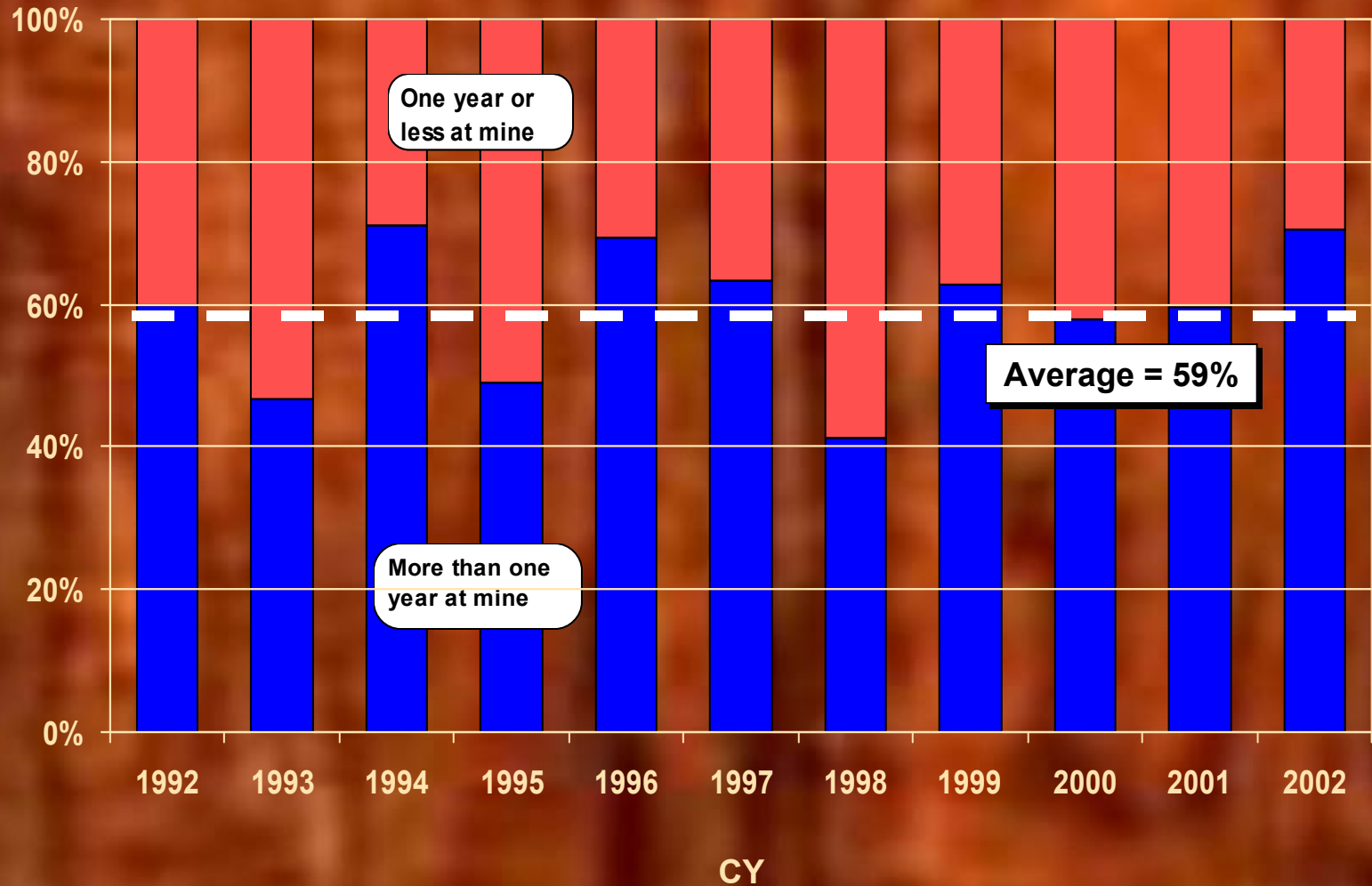
Fatalities by Experience at Mine

Number
of Fatalities



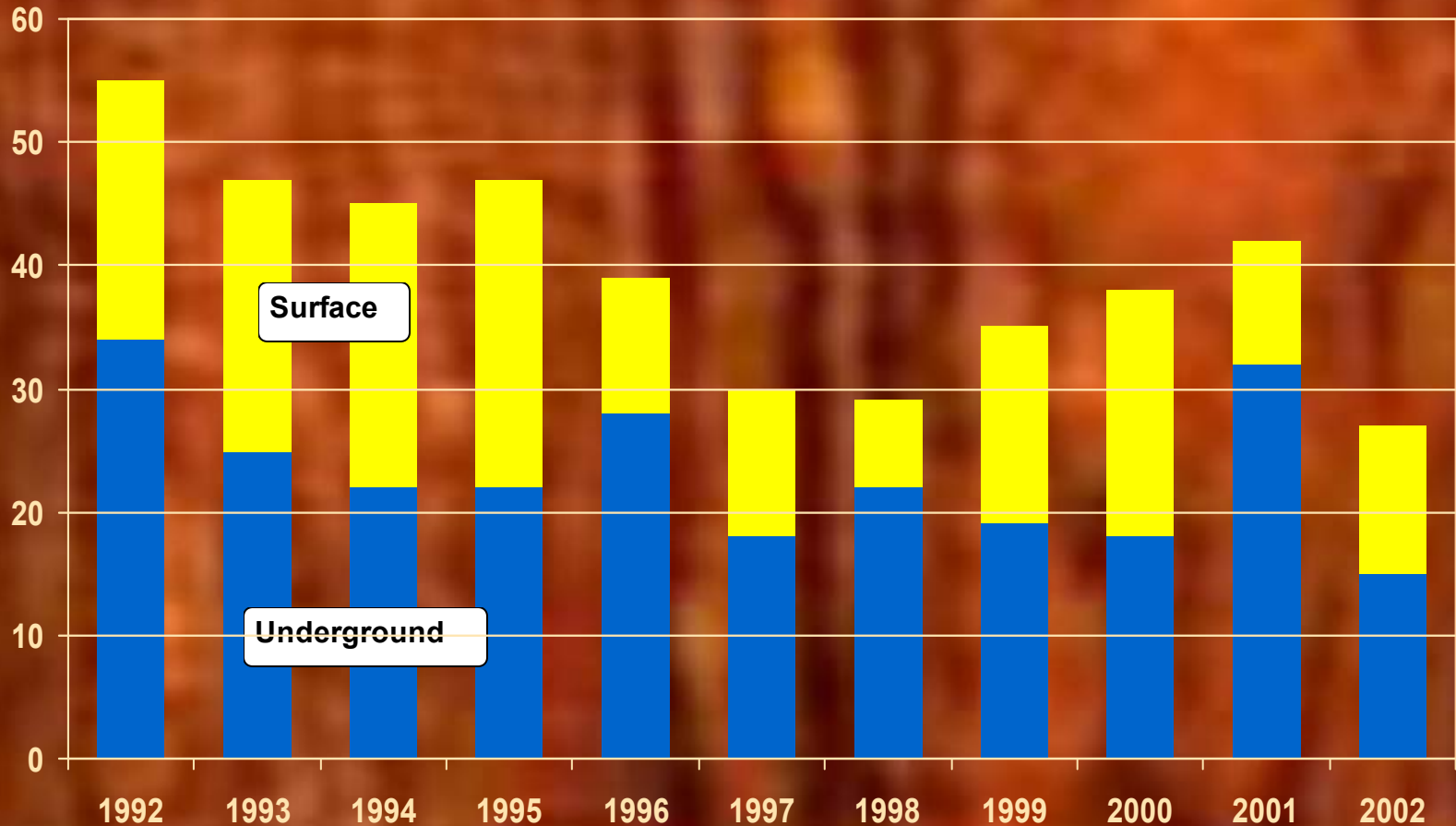
Fatalities by Experience at Mine

Percentage
of Fatalities



Experienced Miner Fatalities by Type of Mine

Number
of Fatalities



CY

Issues with Experienced Miners

- **Lack of knowledge of mine specific hazards**
- **Unfamiliarity with equipment and procedures**
- **Real and/or perceived need to be seen as a highly productive worker**
- **Decreased life of mines and increased workforce mobility**

Experienced Miner Accidents

- **Experienced miners who move to different mines are at **increased** risk of injury:**
 - **41% of all fatalities occur during the FIRST YEAR at the mine**
 - **14% of all fatalities occur during the FIRST WEEK at the mine**

What Can We Do to Eliminate This Problem?

- **Raise industry's awareness of this observation**
- **Emphasize task training on new equipment and mine-specific procedures**
- **Improve training for experienced miners, "Go the Extra Step"**
- **Use on-site mentors for the "newly employed experienced miners"**
- **Reinforce initial training after several days**

Things to Do

- **Ascertain the employee's ability to safely operate equipment**
- **Ask for training responses to be verbal—eliminate “head nods”.**
- **Clearly explain the value you place on working safe and your expectations**
- **Spend extra time with contractors to improve training effectiveness**

What Does Industry Get for Their Investment?

- **Reduction in accidents/injuries**
- **Lower compensation costs**
- **Safer and more productive work force**
- **More efficient and productive mine**
- **Lower costs - improved “bottom line”**